

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 06056 190628 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
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R 190620 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1739

SECDEF WASHDC

CJCS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 6056

EXDIS

FOR STATE/ AID

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: RICE AND LOC SECURITY

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF A PURPOSEFUL KHMER EFFORT
TO MEET THE NEW THREAT ON ROUTE 5, I AM SENDING
LON NOL THE FOLLOWING LETTER TODAY, WITH COPIES
TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL
AND TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF MAJGEN SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ.

2. QTE: EXCELLENCY: AS YOU KNOW, THE QUESTION
OF RICE SUPPLY HAS BECOME CRITICAL. THERE REMAINS
IN TOWN A STOCK OF EIGHT THOUSAND TONS, HARDLY
ENOUGH FOR 15 DAYS, EVEN WITH A PROPER CONTROL OF
DISTRIBUTION, WHICH IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER.

3. QTE AFTER THAT, ONE WILL DEPEND FROM STOCKS
ACCUMULATED AT KOMPONG SOM AND AT BATTAMBANG.

4. QTE NOW IT IS POSSIBLE TO MOVE A CERTAIN QUANTITY
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OF RICE FROM KOMPONG SOM TO PHNOM PENH BY WATER, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH A PROJECT IS ALREADY IN TRAIN. BUT THIS MEANS OF RESUPPLY CANNOT MEET PHNOM PENH'S NEEDS, FAR FROM IT. IN ORDER FOR THE POPULATION OF THE CAPITAL TO BE ABLE TO EAT, IT IS NECESSARY TO BE ABLE TO RUN LAND CONVOYS ON NATIONAL ROUTES 4 AND 5.

5. QTE ROUTE 4 HAS RECEIVED A PRIORITY WHICH CORRESPONDS TO ITS CRITICAL IMPORTANCE AND TO THE ENEMY THREAT WEIGHING ON IT.

6. QTE BUT THAT IS NOT THE CASE FOR ROUTE 5. THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FIRST DIVISION HAS EXPOSED ROUTE 5 TO A NEW ENEMY ATTACK AS FORESEEN, AND HAS DEPRIVED IT OF THE SINGLE COMMAND AND INTERVENTION FORCE ON WHICH THE SECURITY OF CONVOYS DEPEND.

7. QTE CLEARLY THE DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE FORCES IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HIGH COMMAND. BUT I THINK IT IS NECESSARY, MARSHAL, THAT YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE HIH POLITICAL COUNCIL ESTABLISH AN OVERALL ORDER OF PRIORITY WITHIN WHOSE FRAMEWORK THE HIGH COMMAND CAN DECIDE HOW TO DEPLOY ITS UNITS. IT IS EVIDENT THAT A MAXIMUM EFFORT ON BOTH ROUTE 5 AND ON ROUTE 4 IS NECESSARY AT THE PRESENT TIME. UNQTE.

8. WITH LINKUP OF FANK FORCES ON ROUTE 4 BETWEEN ANG SNUOL AND THNAL TOTUNG, WE ARE URGING THE GKR TO RUN A RICE CONVOY FROM KOMPONG SOM IMMEDIATELY, TOMORROW, JUNE 20, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. IF NECESSARY, THE FANK MUST GET USED TO TAKING SOME CONVOY LOSSES TO KEEP PHNOM PNH RESUPPLIED.

SWANK

SECRET

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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